

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10126 241931Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-04 OES-07 PER-05 EB-08 /037 W
-----123425 241939Z /14

P 241919Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9119

UNCLAS PARIS 10126

USOECD

FOR EUR/RPE, OES/EN - PASS EPA BARBARA BLUM, ALICE B.
POPKIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE, OECD

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SCICOUNS, DEPUTY SYG
ELDIN DISCUSSED THE DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR POSITION. HIS COMMENTS, WHICH
ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW, ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN
CONSIDERING ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FROM MEMBER
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BOTH INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS AND
THOSE PROVIDED BY DELEGATIONS. MISSION POINTS OUT THAT
THE JOB IS NOT NECESSARILY A U.S. POSITION. THE U.S.,
WHICH HAS HELD THE TOP ENVIRONMENT POSITION FOR EIGHT
YEARS, IS NOW WELL REPRESENTED AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN
THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECRETARIAT (BECKLER, DIREC-
TOR DSTI; HANNUM, DEPUTY DG NEA; AND KLEIN, DIRECTOR
OF ENERGY R&D - IEA). HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT
U.S. CANDIDATE(S) IF PRESENTED WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY,
WILL RECEIVE FAIR CONSIDERATION IN THE SELCTION OF A
NEW ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR.

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2. IN HIS REMARKS, ELDIN STRESSED THREE THEMES: (A)
MANAGEMENT SKILLS, (B) LEADERSHIP, AND (C) PROFESSIONAL
STATURE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ECONOMICS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. HE ALSO MENTIONED AS IMPORTANT
ATTRIBUTES: DIPLOMATIC SKILL, ENERGY
AND DRIVE., WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY, PUBLIC
SPEAKING ABILITY, KNOWLEDGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AND BILINGUAL
SKILLS. HE OBSERVED THAT A USEFUL PROFESSIONAL
DESCRIPTION MIGHT BE "AN ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDED
ECONOMIST" OR "AN ECONOMICS MINDED ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENTIST". THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ECONOMICS
INGREDIENT WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SELEC-
TION OF THE NEW DIRECTOR, AS WELL AS IN THE FUTURE
WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGULATIONS, PERSONNEL, ENVIRONMENT, POSITION AUTHORIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS10126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-1083
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxlm.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 66ef37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212062
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE, OECD
TAGS: SENV, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66ef37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014